

U.S.S.N. 09/981,845

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) An osteopontin-derived peptide fragment comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, and SEQ ID NO:15, ~~wherein the peptide sequence is not full length human osteopontin.~~

2. (currently amended) The peptide fragment of claim 1, wherein the peptide increases cell attachment to a biomaterial and increases cell spread.

3. (currently amended) The peptide fragment of claim 2, wherein the peptide binds to at least one receptor on a cell surface.

4. (currently amended) The peptide fragment of claim 3, wherein the receptor(s) is an integrin.

5. (currently amended) The peptide fragment of claim 4, wherein the integrin(s) is selected from the group consisting of $\alpha_v\beta_3$, $\alpha_v\beta_5$, $4\beta_1$, $2\beta_1$, VCAM, ICAM CD44, V₃V_x.

6. (currently amended) The peptide fragment of claim 3 wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of osteoprogenitor cells, tumor cells, macrophages, periosteal cells, endothelial cells, epithelial cells, eosinophils, stem cells, limited potential precursor cells, precursor cells, committed precursor cells, and differentiated cells.

Claims 7-18. (canceled)